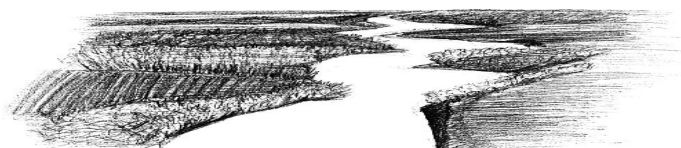


SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, Ca. 96080



Web-Page www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov.

SRCA NOTES

November, 2001

❖ **Project Activities and Updates – M&T/Llano Seco – Work has begun!** Les Heringer, Manager, has reported they received the final permit from the State Department of Parks and Recreation on Friday, Nov. 2. They will start work on November 3 and will proceed 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, for approximately 14 days. Les stated “The process has been a long ordeal and would not have been possible without a supreme effort from many agency representatives, organizational people, elected officials, and private parties”.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has requested funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the acquisition of a 454-acre portion of the Vereschagin property in Glenn County as part of the conservation and flood damage reduction effort in the Hamilton City/J Levee area. TNC is working with public and private interests to realign the J Levee along geologic control, providing both ecosystem restoration and better flood protection for the surrounding area. DWR/Rec. Board has agreed to provide \$5 million to TNC to be used to purchase lands needed to relocate the J Levee. The properties will be donated to the non-federal sponsor of the project to be used as part of the local cost share for realigning and rebuilding of the levee. TNC recently signed an option to purchase a 481-acre portion of the Westermann property in Glenn County with funding from this grant.

Public Use Study - With funding provided under a 1997 CALFED grant, TNC is working with the SRCA, Department of Fish & Game, Wildlife Conservation Board, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to develop the scope of work and select a consulting firm to study recreational use of public land along the Sacramento River between Red Bluff and Colusa.

Dan Keppen, Chairman of the TAC, announced he has accepted a position with the Klamath Water Users Association. Dan's contribution to the TAC Committee has been invaluable and he will be sorely missed. We wish him the very best in his new endeavors. Anjanette Martin, NCWA, has been selected as the new Chair and Stacy Cepello, DWR, as Co-Chair.

➤ **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – October 17th**

Activity Updates – Scott Clemons, WCB, discussed their November 28th Board agenda which includes consideration of two separate grants; one to SRP for restoration on the Pamma Property, the second to TNC for acquisition of the Vereschagin Property which is part of the Hamilton City Project. Joe Silveira announced the selection of Kelly Moroney as the new manager of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge.

Project Review Process – A draft project proposal review guideline was made available as a starting point for discussion. Questions and suggestions followed: Information on proposed projects to include possible economic impacts, both positive and negative; a time frame for submitting, with exceptions, because timeline restrictions can't always be met; a two week prior notice to SRCA staff was suggested; should come to the TAC first, Board deals with policy issues. Discussion from this meeting will be forwarded to the Board Committee which will be working on a uniform review process.

Conservation Area Language – Discussion continued on the definition of area between the IRZ and outer boundary of the Conservation Area. Stacy Cepello, DWR, gave brief background on the evolution of the Conservation Area language. Originally referred to as “eligibility area”, Burt Bundy, SRCA Manager, noted it could refer to participation in programs such as “good neighbor”, as well as conservation programs. Expressed were landowner concerns about restoration activity outside the levees in Reach 3 and 4; conversely, concerns by others that changing the language may be a shift towards eliminating the area outside the IRZ for conservation. The issue will be on future agendas for further discussion.

Manager's Report – Burt discussed the October 14th Levee Festival in Hamilton City, over \$4500.00 was raised to add to the local match funds. The agreement between TNC and The Reclamation Board has been signed to provide \$5 Mil. in restoration funds for non-federal match. Woodson Bridge (Kopta Slough) has support for funding for a COE Section 1135 project in the 2002 federal budget. TNC has applied for funding for Colusa/Princeton Sub-reach; the SRCA will work cooperatively with TNC to assure local involvement. SRCA will be a participant in the development of a management plan on the Fenwood Property in Shasta County.

➤ **SRCA Board Meeting – October 25th**

TAC Report – Dan Keppen updated the Board on discussion items at the TAC which included the project review process and Conservation Area language. Dan expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Board and all of those involved in the SB1086 process this past year.

Board Committee Reports –

Executive Committee – Discussion items included the attorney search which will be left open to gather additional information. Discussion was held on selection of a new TAC Chair; the Committee decided to recommend to the Board the appointment of Anjanette Martin, NCWA, as Chair and Stacy Cepello, DWR, as Co-Chair. The Board voted to approve this recommendation.

Landowner Assurances Committee – the Committee is trying to draft a Good Neighbor Policy, will continue developing at the November 8th meeting.

PILT/Economic Committee – the group discussed federal and state PILT and how they were distributed. They have asked representatives from Representative Herger and Ose's offices to attend the November 30th PILT/Econ meeting.

Outreach Committee - the Board voted to relegate authority to the Outreach Committee to select a marketing firm and work with that firm to create a logo and brochure. The final draft will be brought to the Board to review.

Project Review Committee – additional members have expressed an interest in being a part of this committee – will try to do a first meeting via e-mail.

Manager's Report – Burt Bundy congratulated Denny Bungarz on his appointment to the CALFED Advisory Council. DWR has announced an interest in utilizing Prop 13 Flood Protection Corridor Program funds to purchase the Feeney-Lerch Ranch below Ord Bend. A public hearing is scheduled for 7:00 pm November 13th at the Glenn Pheasant Hunting Center.

Agency Reports – Rebecca Fris, CALFED, informed the group that the proposals will now go through an extensive review process with public comment period in January or February.

Dave Means, Wildlife Conservation Board, announced the next Board meeting date will be November 28th and Sam Lawson was introduced to discuss two items on the agenda, the Vereschagin property in Glenn County and a portion of the Westermann property also in Glenn County (See Project Activities and Updates). Sam also updated the group on the Pine Creek Unit, property that was purchased with borrowed funds. They were to receive Caltrans funds for 88-1/2% of the purchase amount but the grant has not been approved as yet. Sam indicated modeling has shown that if the land is not managed for agriculture, the existing culverts could be opened to allow water in to the area that would benefit Butte and Glenn County residents and farmers on the other side.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q Has the increase in riparian restoration in the last two decades contributed to the amount of debris in the River?

A This is a difficult question. Studies are under way to help answer this concern. First, it should be remembered that riparian forests are an effective filter, capturing both sediment and debris on point bars and on the floodplain, and dramatically reducing the sediment and debris in the river, particularly during the large floods when most debris is moving. Riparian forests and restoration projects only contribute to the debris along eroding banks.

Riparian restoration activities have been accelerating; however, most of the riparian restoration projects are young, with small trees and little biomass per acre. Riparian forests have the most biomass, and hence produce the most debris per acre eroded. One would naturally expect that the debris contribution of eroding restoration areas will increase in the future. Orchards have intermediate volumes of biomass. Debris in the river is increased by the practice of placing orchard clippings along eroding banks.

DWR is measuring eroding banks between Red Bluff and Colusa. Banks are being classified as agricultural, restoration, or natural riparian. Using biomass estimates and bank erosion rates, the study will determine the relative sediment and debris contributions of these three land use types. The study should also answer whether riparian restoration activities have a net positive or negative effect on the debris problems.

- By Koll Buer, Department of Water Resources, Geologic Investigations Unit

The Sacramento River
Conservation Area Board
Members:

Chair, Ben Carter, Colusa County

Don Anderson, Glenn County, Sec/Treas.

Jane Dolan, Butte County, Vice Chairman

Bill Borrer, Tehama County

Denny Bungarz, Glenn County

Mel Dodgin, The Resources Agency

Marc Faye, Yolo County

Brendon Flynn, Tehama County

Dan Gover, Shasta County

Glenn Hawes, Shasta County

Shirley Lewis, Butte County

Lynnel Pollock, Yolo County

Dan Silva, Sutter County

Doug White, Colusa County

Russell Young, Sutter County

Ex-Officio Members:

Laura Allen, Bureau of Reclamation

Dan Castleberry, US F&WS

Mark Charlton, Corps of Engineers

Diana Jacobs, Department of Fish & Game * Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board * Dwight Russell, Department of Water Resources

Comprehensive Study - Sacramento River Basin Workshops
Thursday, Nov. 8, 2001 6-9 pm 545 Vallombrosa Ave. Chico, Ca.
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2001 6-9 pm Highway 20 Colusa, Ca.

Future SRCA TAC/Board Meetings:

- The next **TAC** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **November 14th**, 10:00 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows.
- The next **SRCA Board** meeting will be held on **December 6th**, 4:00 p.m., Willows City Hall, Willows.
- **Landowner Assurances** Committee meeting **November 8th**, 4-6 p.m., Colusa Fairground, Colusa.
- **PILT/Economic** Committee meeting **November 30th**, 10:00 a.m., Glenn County Board of Supervisors' Conference Room, Willows, Ca.

State of the Sacramento River Conference November 17th
and 18th at the Red Bluff Community Center, Red Bluff, Ca.

Burt Bundy, Manager (530) 528-7411
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